

Message

From: Perrin, Rebecca [Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/1/2019 10:35:52 PM
To: Perrin, Rebecca [Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov]
Subject: Ag Update 91

Hello all,

This update includes the following topics:

1. EPA Releases 2018 Year in Review Highlighting Agency Accomplishments and Environmental Progress under President Trump & Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler
2. EPA Signs Memorandum of Understanding with The Water Research Foundation Advancing Nutrient Management Efforts.
3. EPA Appoints New Members to the Science Advisory Board and Subcommittees (including Agricultural Science Committee)
4. Applications Now Being Accepted for K-12 Student and Teacher Awards.

Have a great weekend!

Rebecca Perrin

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1. EPA Releases 2018 Year in Review Highlighting Agency Accomplishments and Environmental Progress under President Trump & Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler. On January 28, 2019, the EPA released the 2018 Year in Review outlining major accomplishments and environmental progress during the Trump Administration.

See the full report: <https://www.epa.gov/newsroom/epa-year-review-2018>.

In 2018, EPA's accomplishments include:

- Issuing Major Proposals Including the Affordable Clean Energy Rule, the SAFE Vehicles Rule, and the New Waters of the U.S. Definition

- Providing Greater Regulatory Certainty to States, Tribes, Localities, and the Regulated Community
- Streamlining the Effectiveness and Efficiency of EPA
- Launching Cross-Agency Initiatives to Improve Risk Communication on Emerging Contaminants and Vulnerable Populations
- Initiating Multiple Actions to Reduce Lead Exposure, Including Releasing the Federal Lead Action Plan
- Improving Enforcement Compliance and Assistance
- Holding the Agency's First-Ever PFAS National Leadership Summit and Inaugural Recycling Day Summit
- Leading International Environmental Efforts, Including First-Ever Articles to Prevent and Reduce Marine Litter in USMCA
- Ensuring Comprehensive and Coordinated Responses to Multiple Natural Disasters

By the Numbers:

- **REGULATORY REFORM:** 13 deregulatory actions were finalized in 2018. To date, under President Trump, EPA has finalized 33 major deregulatory actions saving Americans almost \$2 billion.
- **AIR:** EPA reported that, during President Trump's first year in office, greenhouse gas emissions from major industrial sources decreased by 2.7 percent.
- **WATER:** By the end of 2018, EPA closed seven WIFIA loans totaling nearly \$2 billion to help finance over \$4 billion for water infrastructure projects and create up to 6,000 jobs.
- **LAND:** EPA deleted all or part of 22 sites from Superfund's National Priorities List in FY 2018 – the largest number of deletions in one year since FY 2005.
- **CHEMICALS:** After inheriting a "backlog" of 672 new chemical submissions pending review in January 2017, under President Trump, EPA aggressively worked to improve the review of new chemical submissions and, as a result, eliminated the initial backlog and reduced the number of cases pending review to 475 submissions by August 2018. EPA completed 99.7 percent of the 2,199 pesticide registration actions on-time, registered 23 new active ingredients and 147 new uses of existing pesticides, providing new tools to growers to meet their pest management needs.
- **ENFORCEMENT:** In FY 2018, EPA enforcement actions required the treatment, disposal, or elimination of 809 million pounds of pollutants and waste - almost twice as much as FY 2017. The Agency also entered into the largest settlement in the history of EPA's enforcement of the Risk Management Program with the responsible party spending \$150 million on major safety improvements.
- **GRANTS:** EPA awarded \$4,451,520,905 in grants in FY 2018 including more than \$63 million under the General Assistance Program, benefiting nearly all federally recognized tribes through awards to 500 tribal governments and approximately 25 intertribal consortia, \$4.344 million in State and Tribal Assistance Grants, and 37 environmental education grants totaling \$3,306,760 in 32 states to 13 colleges and universities, 23 stakeholder organizations, and one tribal community.

2. EPA Signs Memorandum of Understanding with The Water Research Foundation Advancing Nutrient Management Efforts. On February 1, 2019, as part of the Trump Administration's commitment to protecting America's waters through smart partnerships and market-based approaches, the EPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Water Research Foundation (WRF) to accelerate progress on reducing excess nutrients in the nation's waterways. The MOU builds on successes achieved through the Nutrient Recycling Challenge, a competition launched by EPA with WRF and others to develop affordable technologies to recycle nutrients from livestock manure. Through the new MOU, EPA and WRF will collaborate with the agricultural community to build capacity and awareness of programs and tools that support watershed and market-based approaches to nutrient management. To accomplish these goals, the MOU aims to:

- Facilitate greater collaborations between the regulated water community, technology developers and providers, and agricultural producers;
- Match innovative manure and nutrient management technologies with on-farm testing sites, funders for technology demonstrations, and third-party evaluators;
- Enable producer-to-producer information exchange regarding technology performance; and
- Develop and disseminate information on specific topic areas related to manure management and resource recovery and reuse.

Under the Trump Administration, EPA has made tackling nutrient issues in water resources across the country a key water priority. In December 2018, EPA and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a letter to state co-regulators encouraging increased engagement and a reinvigoration of state, tribal, and federal efforts to reduce excess nutrients in waterways, with a focus on market-based and other collaborative approaches. Addressing excess nutrients in the nation's waterways also is a key priority of a larger interagency effort to better coordinate and focus federal resources on some of the nation's most challenging water resource concerns.

- To view the MOU, visit <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/animal-feeding-operations-afos#technology>
- To learn more about what EPA is doing to address excess nutrients, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/what-epa-doing-reduce-nutrient-pollution>
- To learn more about WRF, visit www.waterrf.org
- Read entire press release, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-signs-mou-water-research-foundation-advancing-nutrient-management-efforts>

3. EPA Appoints New Members to the Science Advisory Board and Subcommittees. On Jan 31, 2019, EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced the appointment of members who will serve on the Science Advisory Board (SAB) and four subcommittees including; the Agricultural Science Committee (ASC), the Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee (CAAC), the Drinking Water Committee (DWC), and the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC). The nomination period for the SAB and its standing committees closed on August 8, 2018. The SAB Staff Office identified 174 candidates that have confirmed interest to serve on the Board and an additional 240 candidates that have confirmed interest to serve on the four SAB subcommittees. Each of the candidates have submitted bio-sketches and their curricula vitae. The List of Candidates was posted on the SAB website for a 21-day public comment period that closed the second week of November 2018. A complete roster for the SAB and each standing subcommittee can be found at:

<https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/WebBOARD/CommitteesandMembership?OpenDocument>.

The Agricultural Science Committee

- In FY 2018, the ASC had sixteen members.
- Of those, eleven members had terms which do not expire and thus remain on the committee.
- No ASC members completed their terms of service in FY 2018.
- Six members had their first three-year terms expire and all are being reappointed by Acting Administrator Wheeler.
- In addition, the Acting Administrator is appointing six new committee members (listed in table 2 below.) Dr. Otto Doering is the ASC Chairman.
- 3 of the 22 members are from states in Region 8:
 - Andrew Kniss – University of Wyoming
 - James Pritchett – Colorado State University
 - Robert Thaler – South Dakota State University

4. Applications Now Being Accepted for K-12 Student and Teacher Awards. Applications are now being accepted for the President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) and The Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators Award (PIAEE). Applications are due March 8, 2019. EPA is seeking PEYA and PIAEE awards applications that highlight environmental stewardship in a variety of areas, including the following: environmental sustainability; a healthy school environment including projects that reduce food waste in school cafeterias; environmentally friendly agriculture practices; reducing human contributions to ocean litter and how to prevent it; school gardens; recycling; or using STEM to teach environmental education.

- The PEYA program recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship projects by K-12 youth, promoting awareness of our nation's natural resources and encouraging positive community involvement. Since 1971, EPA has recognized young people for protecting our nation's air, water, land, and ecology. Each year the PEYA program honors a wide variety of projects developed by young individuals, school classes (kindergarten through high school), summer camps, public interest groups, and youth organizations to promote environmental awareness. EPA will select up to two winners in each of EPA's 10 Regions – one regional winner for Grades K-5 and one regional winner for Grades 6-12. Winners of this year's awards will be invited to a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in mid-2019, and have their project mentioned on EPA's website. All student projects must be sponsored by at least one adult over the age of 21. The application and eligibility information are available at: <https://www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award>. For more information, please contact PEYA@epa.gov.
- The PIAEE is an annual award program administered by the Office of Environmental Education at EPA. Since 1971, the EPA has recognized exceptional K-12 teachers employing innovative, interactive approaches to environmental education. It is one of the most important ways EPA and the Administration demonstrate commitment to environmental stewardship efforts created and conducted by our nation's teachers. PIAEE awardees will receive an award of up to \$2,500 to be used to further the recipient's professional development in environmental education. The teacher's local education agency will also receive an award of up to \$2,500 to fund environmental educational activities and programs (and not for construction costs, general expenses, salaries, bonuses, or other administrative expenses). EPA will select up to two winners in each of EPA's 10 Regions. For information on recent winners, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-honors-award-winning-environmental-education-teachers-and-students> Details regarding application requirements and descriptions of winning projects since 2002 can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/education/presidential-innovation-award-environmental-educators>. For more information, please contact: PIAEE@epa.gov.